

PICTURE ADJUSTMENT METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR VIDEO DISPLAY APPLIANCE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to a video display appliance, and more particularly, to a picture adjustment method and apparatus for a video display appliance.

2. Description of the Related Art

In general, a video display appliance such a monitor has a picture adjustment function, with which a user can adjust the brightness, contrast or size of the screen.

The following is a description of a conventional picture adjustment apparatus for a video display appliance made with reference to FIG. 1. A control section 10 of the video display appliance controls the whole operation of the video display appliance, and processes a user's command inputted through a key manipulation section 20. The control section 10 also performs the picture adjustment in accordance with the user's command, and provides an on-screen display (OSD) output processing section 30 with OSD data representing the picture adjustment state or result. The OSD output processing section 30 displays the OSD according to the OSD data provided from the control section 10 on a display section 40. The key manipulation section 20 includes a plurality of keys and interfaces the user and the control section 10.

The operation of the conventional picture adjustment apparatus as constructed above will now be explained. When a

user desires picture adjustment, he/she provides the control section 10 with a command for entering a picture adjustment process by means of the key manipulation section 20. In accordance with the command, the control section 10 displays a picture adjustment OSD on the screen of the display section 40. FIG. 2 shows an example of the picture adjustment OSD. The picture adjustment OSD includes a variety of menus that can control the brightness, contrast, size, shape, etc. of the picture. The user can command various kinds of picture adjustment through those menus.

The control section 10 performs the picture adjustment by receiving a picture adjustment command through the picture adjustment OSD, and displays the result of picture adjustment on the picture adjustment menu. Thus, the user can easily confirm the picture adjustment state and the result thereof.

However, the picture adjustment OSD includes a number of picture adjustment menus that are quite difficult to adjust. For instance, it is not only difficult to adjust the shape of the screen, colors, OSD language, removing of wave patterns or color bleeding but also difficult to return them to their original state.

As described above, the conventional apparatus for adjusting the picture of a video display appliance puts the burden of adjusting such difficult picture adjustment menus on the user, and this poses the problems of deteriorating the picture display state due to misadjustment of the picture adjustment menus by an unskillful user or a child, as well as of disabling restoration of the picture display state to the

original state.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a picture adjustment method and apparatus for a video display appliance capable of improving the reliability of the product by preventing unskillful users from accessing the picture adjustment menus that are difficult to be adjusted and retrieved to the original states.

To achieve the above object, there is provided a picture adjustment method for a video display appliance, comprising the steps of: selecting and determining accessible picture adjustment OSDs; if entry into a picture adjustment process is commanded after the determination of the accessible picture adjustment OSDs, displaying the accessible picture adjustment OSDs; if a command for picture adjustment is inputted through any one of the displayed picture adjustment OSDs, checking whether the corresponding picture adjustment OSD is accessible; performing the picture adjustment in accordance with the inputted command for picture adjustment if it is checked that the corresponding picture adjustment OSD is accessible; and ignoring the inputted command for picture adjustment if it is checked that the corresponding picture adjustment OSD is not accessible.

In another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a picture adjustment apparatus for a video display appliance, comprising: a key manipulation section for receiving information on accessible picture adjustment OSDs from a user; a memory for storing information on the accessible picture

adjustment OSDs; a display section for displaying various kinds of information; an OSD output processing section for displaying an OSD according to OSD data on the display section; and a control section for providing the OSD output processing section with the OSD data for displaying the picture adjustment OSDs after receiving and storing the information on the accessible picture adjustment OSDs, and processing as an effective command only the command for picture adjustment inputted through the picture adjustment OSD that has been determined to be accessible.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a schematic construction of a conventional picture adjustment apparatus for a video display appliance;

FIG. 2 is a view illustrating a picture adjustment menu displayed according to the conventional picture adjustment apparatus;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a schematic construction of a picture adjustment apparatus for a video display appliance according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIGs. 4 and 5 are flowcharts illustrating a picture adjustment method for a video display appliance according to the present invention; and

FIGs. 6 and 7 are views illustrating picture adjustment menus displayed according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will be described herein below with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the following description, well-known functions or constructions are not described in detail since they would obscure the invention in unnecessary detail.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a schematic construction of a picture adjustment apparatus for a video display appliance according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Referring to FIG. 3, a control section 100 controls the whole operation of the video display appliance according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, and processes a user's command inputted through a key manipulation section 102. The control section 100 provides an OSD output processing section 104 with OSD data for displaying a plurality of picture adjustment OSDs in accordance with the user's command. Each of the picture adjustment OSDs includes a plurality of picture adjustment menus. The control section 100 can display each one of the picture adjustment OSDs in turn in accordance with the user's command.

The control section 100 blocks another user's access to the picture adjustment OSDs that have been selected by a specified user. Here, the specified user refers to a user or managing staff who is capable of easily adjusting picture

adjustment menus that are fairly difficult to be adjusted. The specified user may command entry into a menu for determining whether the picture adjustment is accessible. Input of such command may be turning on a power source of the video display appliance in a state that two or more predetermined keys are simultaneously inputted.

Once the picture adjustment is determined to be accessible, the control section 100 displays the picture adjustment OSD determined to be accessible in a black color representing an active state, while displaying the picture adjustment OSD determined not to be accessible in a gray color representing an inactive state. By doing so, the user can easily discriminate the accessible picture adjustment menus from the accessible picture adjustment menus.

The OSD output processing section 104 displays the OSD according to the OSD data provided from the control section 100 on a display section 106. A memory 108 stores various kinds of information, and in particular, information on the accessible picture adjustment OSDs under the control of the control section 100.

The operation of the picture adjustment apparatus according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to the accompanying drawings.

The process of determining the accessible picture adjustment OSDs by the control section 100 will first be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. 4. The specified user can command entry into the menu for determining the accessibility of the picture adjustment by turning on the

power source of the video display appliance in a state that two or more predetermined keys are simultaneously inputted among the keys of the key manipulation section 102. Once the specified user commands entry into the menu for determining the accessibility of the picture adjustment (step 200), the control section 100 displays any one of the plurality of picture adjustment OSDs on a display section 106 (step 202). If the specified user requests the display of another picture adjustment OSD through the key manipulation section 102 after displaying the picture adjustment OSD as described above (step 204), the control section 100 displays the picture adjustment OSD requested by the specified user (step 206). The picture adjustment OSDs to be displayed are brightness, contrast, colors, position and shape of the screen, language determination, special functions, etc.

If the specified user inputs information on selecting the accessible picture adjustment while the picture adjustment OSD is displayed (step 208), the control section 100 determines whether the corresponding picture adjustment OSD is accessible in accordance with the selected information (step 210). The control section 100 stores the determined information in the memory 108 so as to be used whenever displaying the picture adjustment OSD.

Thereafter, the control section 100 searches whether or not the specified user commands termination of the determination of the picture adjustment accessibility by means of the key manipulation section 102 (step 212). The control section 100 continuously performs the determination of the

accessible picture adjustment OSDs until the command for termination is received.

Here, when selecting the accessible picture adjustment OSD, the specified user determines the picture adjustment OSD including the picture adjustment menus such as brightness, contrast, position of the screen, size of the screen, which are easily retrievable to the original state through manipulation by an unskillful user, to be accessible. The specified user determines the picture adjustment OSD including the picture adjustment menus such as shape of the screen, colors, OSD language, removing of wave patterns or color bleeding, which are not easily reset to the original state through manipulation by an unskillful user, to be inaccessible. Of course, the picture adjustment OSD that has been determined to be accessible can be re-determined to be accessible if necessary.

As described above, once the accessibility of the picture adjustment OSD is determined, the specified user or other users (hereinafter, referred to the "user") can perform the picture adjustment by using the picture adjustment OSD that has been determined to be accessible.

The process of picture adjustment performed by the control section 100 will now be explained with reference to the flowchart of FIG. 5. The user may command the picture adjustment by means of the key manipulation section 102. If the user commands the picture adjustment (step 300), the control section 100 displays any one of the plurality of picture adjustment OSDs on the display section 106 (step 302). In particular, the control section 100 displays the picture

adjustment OSD with a color corresponding to the pre-determined accessibility of picture adjustment. Thereafter, if the user requests a display of another picture adjustment OSD through the key manipulation section 102 after display of the picture adjustment OSD as described above (step 304), the control section 100 displays the requested picture adjustment OSD (step 306). The picture adjustment OSDs that can be displayed are brightness, contrast, colors, position and shape of the screen, OSD language, special functions, etc. as shown in FIG. 7. Each picture adjustment OSD is displayed either in black color or in gray color depending on the pre-determined accessibility of picture adjustment. That is, the shape of the screen, colors, OSD language, removing wave patterns or color bleeding, which have been determined to be unaccessible, are displayed in gray color, while the other picture adjustment OSDs are displayed in black color. The control section 100 ignores the command for picture adjustment made through the picture adjustment OSD displayed in gray color to prevent misadjustment of the picture adjustment menus, which are not easily reset to the original state, by an unskillful user.

After displaying the picture adjustment OSD as described above, the control section 100 searches whether or not the user inputs a command for picture adjustment through the key manipulation section 102 (step 308). If the user commands the picture adjustment, the control section 100 searches whether or not the corresponding picture adjustment OSD has been determined to be accessible (step 310). The control section performs the picture adjustment in accordance with the command

for picture adjustment if the corresponding picture adjustment OSD has been determined to be accessible (step 312). Otherwise, the control section 100 ignores the command for picture adjustment.

5 After performing the picture adjustment in accordance with the command for picture adjustment, the control section 100 searches whether or not the user commands termination of the picture adjustment through the key manipulation section 102 [step 314]. The control section 100 performs the picture
10 adjustment requested by the user until the user commands the termination of the picture adjustment.

As described above, the present invention has an advantage in that it can improve the reliability of the product by preventing unskillful users from accessing picture
15 adjustment menus that are not easily adjusted and retrieved.

While the invention has been shown and described with reference to a certain preferred embodiment thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the
20 spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.